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BIG FOUR FOREIGN MINISTERS MEET IN VIENNA OVER WEEKEND SIGNING OF AUSTRIAN TREATY EXPECTED AT ANY MOMENT

As originally scheduled, the conference of Ambassadors meeting in Vienna to prepare for the conclusion of the Austrian State Treaty met in daily sessions during the period of the talks. In connection with the interruption of the conference on May 7 and 8, the following interim communique was issued:

"During the past week, the conference of the Ambassadors of the Soviet Union, England, the United States and France, with the participation of representatives of Austria, made considerable progress in the work of preparing the Austrian State Treaty. There is reason to hope that the work of the conference will soon be completed."

The regular sessions of the conference were resumed on May 9. During the course of the talks, restricted conference groups were formed on numerous occasions to discuss and reach decisions on difficult questions. These groups consisted only of the Ambassadors, their deputies and, on the Austrian side, Foreign Minister Figl, Undersecretary Kreisky and Envoy Verosta.

During the conference agreement was reached on dropping or eliminating from the text a considerable number of the total of 59 articles contained in the draft of the Austrian State Treaty with which the Ambassadors were dealing. Moreover, many articles in the draft treaty were amended on the basis of agreement between the five participating nations. Where no agreement as to the content and phrasing of individual articles was reached on the ambassadorial level, these questions were left for decision and final formulation by the four Foreign Ministers and the Austrian representatives at the meeting of Foreign Ministers to be held in Vienna.

On May 5, Lieutenant General William H. Arnold, Commander of the United States Forces in Austria, issued an order of the day to his troops under the title: "You and the Austrian State Treaty." In this order, the U.S. troops were informed of the provisions of the expected treaty and, in view of the treaty's provision for the withdrawal of occupation troops, of the departure of the U.S. forces from Austria and their assignment to other commands or their return to the United States.

MINISTRY OF INTERIOR EMPHASIZES AUSTRIAN ADHERENCE TO RIGHT OF ASYLUM FOR REFUGEES. The Austrian Ministry of the Interior has issued the following announcement: "Various foreign news agencies have recently spread reports to the effect that the original version of Article 16 of the State Treaty draft would obligate Austria to repatriate

refugees and displaced persons by force to their native countries, once the State Treaty went into effect.

"It is pointed out in this connection that the Austrian authorities, in accordance with repeated declarations by the Minister of the Interior, adhere strictly to the principle of the right of asylum for political refugees. Moreover, the preliminary version of Article 16 merely provided for the repatriation of only those persons who *voluntarily* consented to repatriation to their native countries.

"There is consequently no foundation whatever for any fears with respect to the fate of the refugees now living in Austria."

AMBASSADORS' CONFERENCE MEETS IN HEADQUARTERS OF ALLIED COUNCIL. The conference of Ambassadors, being held to complete preparations for the conclusion of the Austrian State Treaty, held its first session on May 2, 1955. The meeting convened in the "House of Austrian Industry" which, since 1945, has served as headquarters for the Allied Council in Vienna. The United States was represented by Ambassadors Llewellyn E. Thompson, the Soviet Union by Ambassador Ivan I. Ilyichev, England by Ambassador Geoffrey Wallinger and France by Minister R. Lalouette. The Austrian delegation, which was headed by Foreign Minister Leopold Figl and Undersecretary Bruno Kreisky, included Envoy Schoener, Envoy Verosta, Legation Councillor Coreth, Legation Councillor Kudernatsch and Legation Secretary Kirchschlaeger. The Ambassadors met in closed sessions and issued joint communiques on the first and last days of the conference. Negotiations were carried on in English, Russian, French and German.

AUSTRIAN AGRICULTURE MINISTER IN U.S. Upon invitation of the Foreign Operations Administration (FOA), Austrian Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, Franz Thoma, a leading figure in the Austrian Government, arrived in New York on May 1st. Herr Thoma then proceeded to Washington, where he held extensive conversations with the Foreign Operations Administration and the Department of Agriculture. He also conferred with U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, Ezra B. Benson. His next stop was Chicago, where he studied the operations of the American Farm Bureau Federation and of the Illinois Agricultural Association. He then left for San Francisco, where he visited the Trivalley Packing Association,

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WESTERN POWERS WANT FIRST MEETING OF AMBASSADORS IN VIENNA. On April 22, 1955, the three Western Powers replied to the Soviet note of April 19 with identical notes, reading as follows:

"The Government of the United States (England, France) has given consideration to the Soviet note of April 19... and welcomes the view of the Soviet Government that there now exists a possibility for concluding the Austrian State Treaty. It is very willing, at the earliest possible date, to participate in a meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the Four Powers and of Austrian representatives for the purpose of signing the treaty. From the information obtained with respect to the exchange of opinions between the Austrian and Soviet ministers in Moscow, it is obvious that a certain amount of preparatory work will have to be carried out. With reference to the Three-Power Declaration of April 5, it is proposed that the Ambassadors of the Four Powers in Vienna hold a conference as soon as possible, with the participation of Austrian representatives, to examine the results of the exchange of opinion in Moscow and to reach the necessary agreement for early signing of the State Treaty by the Foreign Ministers. It is therefore proposed that the Ambassadors and the Austrian representatives meet in Vienna on May 2. As soon as the necessary preparations have been completed, the earliest possible date should be set for the signing of the treaty by the Foreign Ministers."

VIENNA FOR MEETING OF FOREIGN MINISTERS PROPOSED BY SOVIET UNION. On April 19, 1955, the following note, relative to a meeting of Foreign Ministers on the conclusion of the Austrian State Treaty, was transmitted to the heads of the three Western Power missions in Moscow and to the Austrian Foreign Minister in Vienna:

"The Soviet Union considers it necessary to call the attention of the Governments of the United States (France and England) to the following: From April 12-15, negotiations were held in Moscow between the Soviet Government and a delegation of the Government of the Austrian Republic, headed by Austrian Chancellor Julius Raab. As a result of the exchange of opinions which took place, it was found that a possibility exists at the present time for final settlement of the Austrian question and for conclusion of the State Treaty with Austria. This will make it possible to restore the complete independence of a democratic Austrian state. The Soviet Union expresses the hope that the United States (England, France) will do their part toward reaching the necessary agreement between the Governments of the Four Powers concerning conclusion of the State Treaty with Austria. The Soviet Union considers it appropriate that a meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the United States, France, England and the Soviet Union, with the participation of Austrian representatives, be summoned in the near future in order to examine the question of concluding the State Treaty dealing with the restoration of an independent and democratic Austria and to sign this treaty. Vienna is suggested as the place for the conference. The Soviet Union would appreciate an early reply to this proposal."

AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT COMMENT ON MOSCOW DEVELOPMENTS. Chancellor Raab: "The successes at Moscow are to the credit of the whole Austrian nation. . . . During the Moscow talks, no pressure was exerted on the Austrian delegation nor was it forced to make any concessions and, likewise, no secret clauses were involved. . . . An Austrian economic delegation will leave for Moscow shortly because Austria is interested in concluding a trade agreement with the Soviet Union at an early date in order to ensure customs sovereignty over the shipment of merchandise to the East, even before the State Treaty goes into effect."

Vice-Chancellor Schaerf: "The great achievement of the Moscow conversations is that it was possible to obtain from the Soviet Union not only a promise to sign the State Treaty but also the transfer to Austria of the oil installations and the Danube Steamship Company, since it is only through these things that Austria will become truly free and independent. . . . The fact that Austria assumes the obligation not to place the enterprises handed over by the Russians under the control of foreign capital represents a guarantee that even in the future these plants will remain under Austrian ownership."

Foreign Minister Figl: "The Soviet Union is aware that Austria will again apply for admission to the United Nations and at the Moscow talks it not only raised no objections on this score but even promised to lend its support to this Austrian request."

Minister of the Interior Helmer: "The firm attitude of the Austrian people created the foreign policy prerequisites which led to the welcome results at Moscow: hence, unity among the people and within the Government is more necessary than ever at this particular time."

Minister of Finance Kamitz: "The additional burdens resulting from fulfilment of the State Treaty must be incorporated in the regular budget and be covered by regular budgetary receipts. Loans and other aid measures must be categorically rejected. The additional burdens on the national budget must in no event result in the introduction of new taxes or the raising of existing ones."

Undersecretary Kreisky: "As gratified as we are with the successes at Moscow, we should never forget that the Western Powers have been prepared for years to give us freedom and that the Government of the United States was the first to waive occupation costs."

SPECIAL MEETING OF PARLIAMENT COMMEMORATES 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF AUSTRIA'S RESTORATION. On April 27, 1955, in honor of the 10th anniversary of the proclamation restoring Austria as an independent country, the two Houses of the Austrian Parliament (the National Council and the Federal Diet) convened in a special session, which was also attended by the Provincial Governors, members of the provincial governments and by the diplomatic corps in Vienna.

In the address he delivered on this occasion, Austrian President Theodor Koerner declared that today Austria can proudly say of herself that the determination of her people had been strong enough to reconstruct a nation from sheer ruins. The victorious powers, long before their victory, had promised

the freedom of this nation to the Austrian people who had been violated and abandoned 17 years ago. The President's principal theme was that, in view of the relative prosperity they have achieved in these ten years, the Austrian people have proved beyond dispute that Austria has enough economic resources at her disposal to be able to live without begging. Dr. Koerner concluded his address with an appeal stressing that freedom had been attained only through the close cooperation of all and that the combined strength of all citizens would also be required to defend it in the future.

Chancellor Julius Raab paid tribute in his speech to the understanding cooperation between the country's two big governing parties, declaring that the success of Austria's reconstruction program, which has won the admiration of the entire world, is the result of this collaboration. Herr Raab stated that the prerequisite for this success had been foreign aid, especially that of the United States, amounting to a total of 13.4 billion schillings plus an additional 3.1 billion for the support of food prices. The Chancellor then expressed Austria's gratitude to all nations which had lent assistance, addressing his words of thanks primarily to the Government and people of the United States. After presenting a detailed report on the negotiations of the Austrian delegation at Moscow, the Chancellor expressed the hope that the signing of the Austrian State Treaty would take place in Vienna. (In this connection, it has been learned in Vienna that the meeting of Foreign Ministers for concluding the State Treaty is to be held in Vienna's Schoenbrunn Palace.)

EISENHOWER AND ST. LAURENT SEND MESSAGES TO KOERNER. On the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the restoration of Austria, President Dwight D. Eisenhower sent the following message to Austrian President Theodor Koerner: "On this anniversary, which is of such importance to Austria and her friends, I am conveying the best wishes of the American Government and the American people. Neither the Austrian people nor their Government are to blame for the fact that Austria has not yet obtained her complete independence through a State Treaty which should have been concluded long before this tenth anniversary. I can assure you that American policy continues to be directed toward the conclusion of such a treaty. It is certainly to be hoped that the latest developments will lead to the early restoration of Austria's freedom. After these ten years of foreign occupation, the Austrian people can be proud of what they have accomplished, despite this burden, in the fields of intellectual, political and economic endeavor. These achievements of Austria have won the admiration of the entire world."

On the same occasion, the following message was sent to Chancellor Raab by Canadian Prime Minister Louis St. Laurent: "On the happy occasion of the tenth anniversary of the restoration of the Republic of Austria, it is a particular pleasure for me to convey the most cordial greetings and warmest wishes for success from the Canadian Government and Canadian people to you, Mr. Chancellor, to the Austrian Government and to the Austrian people. During the past ten years your fellow citizens have shown great patience and courage in their determination, under the most difficult conditions, to rebuild a strong democratic state."

Other messages of congratulation were received from the President of the French Republic, the Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R., the President of the Republic of India and the chiefs of state of many other nations.

PARLIAMENT VOTES MEASURES FOR AUSTRIAN ADMISSION TO U.N. In its meeting of April 28, 1955, the Austrian Parliament unanimously resolved to call on the Federal Government to take all necessary steps to ensure that Austria's request for admission to the United Nations be submitted for decision in time for that body's next General Assembly.

In another resolution unanimously adopted at the same time, the Federal Government was asked to take all necessary measures, in connection with the negotiations for conclusion of the State Treaty, to ensure the political and economic independence and autonomy of the Republic of Austria.

The same meeting took unanimous note of the declaration of the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R., dated February 9, 1955, recommending the establishment of contact between the parliaments of the two countries. The Austrian Parliament welcomed the Soviet desire for the preservation of equality among nations, their sovereignty and national independence, as well as for the abstention from any interference in the internal affairs of other countries.

VICE-CHANCELLOR SCHAEF RECEIVES VIENNA'S HIGHEST HONOR. In celebration of his 65th birthday, Austrian Vice-Chancellor Adolf Schaerf was awarded honorary citizenship of Vienna. The ceremony at which Mayor Franz Jonas awarded the certificate of honorary citizenship was attended by Austrian President Theodor Koerner, Chancellor Julius Raab and other members of the Federal Government. The right of honorary citizenship is the highest distinction awarded by the City of Vienna and the Vice-Chancellor is the 101st Austrian to be entered into the city's Golden Book as a recipient of this honor.

COMMUNISTS AND RIGHT-WING EXTREMISTS CONTINUE TO LOSE GROUND. On April 24, municipal council elections were held for 22,538 seats in 1,652 localities in the province of Lower Austria. Ninety-three percent of the eligible voters went to the polls. Compared with the results of the last election in this province, i.e. the provincial assembly elections of 1954, the extremist parties of both the left and right (Communists and "Independents") again suffered heavy losses, whereas the two Government parties maintained their electoral strength. The votes received were as follows (figures in parentheses are those for the 1954 elections): People's party 431,459 (436,686), Socialist party 354,789 (353,070), Communists 37,534 (49,641) and "Independents" 2,531 (22,039).

RAAB APPEALS TO AUSTRIANS LIVING ABROAD. In an appeal directed to Austrians living abroad, on the occasion of April 27, 1955, Chancellor Julius Raab regretfully pointed out that Austria had been denied the opportunity to celebrate the tenth anniversary of her restoration in a holiday spirit and that, instead, the Federal Government had been compelled to renew its appeal that this country, liberated ten years ago, at last be given its freedom. Declaring that Austrians living outside their country had a special role to play in Austria's struggle for freedom, the Chancellor concluded with a request

that these Austrians rally even closer around their abused native land and call the attention of public opinion in the countries where they are now living to the flagrant injustice still being done to Austria in the era of the UN Charter and the Charter of Human Rights.

QUARTER MILLION AUSTRIAN CITIZENS LIVING ABROAD.

According to inquiries by Vienna University's Statistical Institute, approximately 250,000 Austrian citizens are living abroad at the present time, whereas approximately 200,000 former citizens of the Republic of Austria have acquired new citizenship in other countries. There are 104,000 former and present citizens of the Austrian Republic in the United States. As opposed to this Austrian data, information of U.S. authorities, issued in 1953, shows that 310,000 persons living in the United States have indicated that they were born in Austria. The explanation for the difference is that the figure of 104,000 applies only to persons from the Republic of Austria, whereas the American estimate includes Austrians born under the Monarchy.

There are approximately 60,000 Austrians in the German Federal Republic and some 15,000 in Eastern Germany. The figures indicated in the most recent Swiss count, which reported over 22,000 Austrian citizens and 13,000 naturalized Austrians, have subsequently increased substantially, especially in point of Austrian citizens. A majority of the approximately 20,000 Austrians living in England are women. In Italy there are 4,200 persons carrying Austrian passports, in Israel 3,000, in Australia 3,000 and in the Union of South Africa 650. For Canada and France, the only data available are the combined figures for persons who are now or were formerly Austrians: these amount to 10,000 and 7,500, respectively.

As for the Danube countries, where tens of thousands of Austrians formerly had their second homelands, there are now only 5,500 Austrians living in Czechoslovakia, 500 in Yugoslavia and 310 in Hungary.

"COORDINATION CENTER FOR AUSTRIANS LIVING ABROAD" TO BE ESTABLISHED IN VIENNA. The Federal Government recently decided to establish a "Coordination Center for Austrians Living Abroad" for the purpose of calling the attention of Austrian authorities to the interests and desires of Austrians living away from home. It is also planned that the new unit will cooperate with the Organization of Austrians Living Abroad and with representative Austrian bodies abroad in looking after the cultural, economic, legal and social interests of Austrians living outside the country.

FINAL BUDGET FIGURES FOR 1954 SHOW SURPLUS. The final figures for Austria's 1954 budget, which have now become available, show a definitely positive development as compared to the estimated budget figures for the same year. Whereas actual expenditures, in the amount of 22,722 million schillings, exceeded the estimated figure by 1,356 million schillings, receipts amounted to 24,289 million, or 3,576 more than originally estimated. In the special budget, higher expenditures were covered by higher receipts, so that the preliminary balance sheet for 1954 shows an excess of 474 million schillings, or 2,287 million schillings more than had been anticipated in the budget draft.

AUSTRIA ON WAY TO AGRICULTURAL SELF-SUFFICIENCY.

Domestic production of foodstuffs in Austria has been rising year by year since the end of the war, and in an increasing number of fields a state of self-sufficiency is being approached. One of the results of the war and the events immediately following it was that agricultural production fell to an all-time low in 1945-46. Subsequently, thanks to a generous investment program, increasing mechanization, the use of better seed and careful increase of cattle stock, farm output has steadily improved. Milk production is illustrative of this development: before the war, the average annual yield per cow was 2,220 quarts; after 1946 it dropped to 1,460 quarts, but by 1953 it had exceeded the 2,220 qt.-mark.

Austria's meat requirements are met almost entirely from her own stocks. The production of beef and pork is now 114% and 100% respectively, of present domestic requirements.

Although production of dairy products is in general somewhat below the prewar level, Austrian agriculture is supplying 100% of the milk, 105% of the butter and 107% of the cheese consumed in the country.

Compared with the period before the last war, the country's domestically produced wheat supply has been substantially increased, i.e. from 56% to 68%. Domestic agriculture has increased its contribution to the supply of rye from 71% to 91%, of barley from 85% to 92% and of oats from 91% to 98%. Although corn production for domestic needs has risen 6% above the 1937 figure, last year's output covered total requirements to the extent of only 40%.

Present-day Austria is completely self-sufficient with respect to potato production, and domestic sugar output is also sufficient to meet the country's requirement. Ninety-five percent of the demand for vegetables is now being covered by Austrian agriculture, as is also over 90% of the fruit consumed.

This increased output of Austrian agriculture is undoubtedly due to many factors. One of the main reasons for the success, is the increasing degree of mechanization. In this connection, mention might be made of the number of tractors. In 1937 there were only 2,000 tractors in the country; today there are more than 45,000. As a result of this mechanization, as well as of the increasing use of artificial fertilizers and of the intensive training of Austrian farmers in numerous schools and through special courses, the yield-per-acre has been very substantially increased in the case of all agricultural products. To give just two examples, production of sugar beets rose from 21,780 lbs. per acre to 27,900 lbs and that of wheat from 1,350 lbs. per acre to 1,710 lbs.

AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT TO SUBSIDIZE 1960 WINTER OLYMPICS.

The Austrian Federal Government has decided, in the event that Innsbruck, capital of Tyrol, is selected as the scene of the 1960 Winter Olympic Games, to finance a 30 million schilling construction project for an artificial-ice stadium and an artificial-ice race track. The Government has also expressed willingness to assume liability for one-third of any deficit which might arise in connection with holding the 1960 Winter Games in Innsbruck.

LOAN PROGRAMS FOR 1955 EXPECTED TO REACH 2.83

BILLION SCHILLINGS. The Austrian capital market is expecting demands in the amount of 2.5-3 billion schillings for the year 1955. On the basis of loans already granted or planned for 1955, the overall loan program is expected to be as follows, subject however to minor changes:

1955 Power Loan	1,000 million schillings
Province of Upper Austria Loan	80 " "
Ill Power Plant Loan	100 " "
ELIN A.G. Loan	100 " "
Housing Reconstruction Loan, No. II	400 " "
Industrial bonds of the Creditanstalt	200 " "
Mortgage bond issues	500 " "
TIWAG Hydroelectric Plant Loan	100 " "
NEWAG Hydroelectric Plant Loan	200 " "
KELAG Hydroelectric Plant Loan	100 " "
Various industrial loans	50 " "
Total	2,830 million schillings

A total of 1,750 million schillings will be required for hydroelectric plant development during 1955. This sum includes 560 million for the Danube Power Plants (Ybbs-Persebeuge), 470 million for the Drau Power Plants (Kreuzeck and Reisseck units) and 400 million for the Tauern Power Plants at Kaprun (Mooserboden Upper Level). To the extent that the capital provided by the 1955 Power Loan does not prove sufficient, it will be supplanted by funds from the power plants themselves, from public funds and from the World Bank loan for the Reisseck Power Plant.

NEARLY ONE-FOURTH OF AUSTRIA'S IMPORTS ARRIVE ON THE DANUBE.

Compared with previous years, the proportion of freight moved by ship - in relation to total transportation of goods - showed a substantial increase in 1954. Ship transportation accounted for 22.5% of all imports (as against 16.5% in 1953) and for 8% of transit trade (5% in 1953). Coal shipments from Germany to Linz, in the amount of more than 70,000 tons per month, represented the largest item in Austria's ship-carried imports. As against the foregoing figure, the average monthly amount of imports transported downstream to Vienna is only in the neighborhood of 20,000 tons, with coal representing the most important item. Upstream transportation from Vienna and Linz is on a much smaller scale, involving the shipment of export goods, mainly mineral oil products and sheet metal.

Although Austria has concluded navigation agreements with all the Danube countries except the Soviet Union, it appears that these countries usually try to carry on their international exchange of goods through their own transportation facilities and that shippers have to be won back to the idea of using the Danube as a freight route.

MOTORIZATION MAKES NEW STRIDES IN AUSTRIA. As a result of the lower prices following tariff reductions and greater trade liberalization, there was a substantial increase in the number of brand new cars licensed in Austria in 1954. During that year approximately 93,000 brand new motor vehicles were placed in operation in Austria. The comparative figures for other years were as follows: 1950, slightly more than 20,000; 1952, 37,000; 1953, 66,000.

Of the newly licensed passenger cars, approximately 25% come from the domestic assembly plant of the Steyr-Fiat Company and another 25% are German "Volkswagen." The great majority of the new vehicles, however, are motorcycles and motor scooters produced in Austria. The figures for newly licensed vehicles during the first two months of 1955 were as follows: January, approximately 7,000; February, over 8,500. These figures represent a 200% increase over those of the previous year.

AUSTRIA RESUMES MINTING OF SILVER COINS. A number of outstanding Austrian artists have been invited to submit designs for the 25-schilling silver coins which are to be issued in honor of the opening of the State Opera in the fall of 1955. This new issue will represent the first minting of silver coins in Austria since the end of the war.

INDUSTRIAL CAPACITY 87 PERCENT USED. According to a study by the Austrian Institute for Economic Research, the average exploitation of Austria's industrial capacity during 1954 was 87%, that of the capital goods industries having been 93% and of the consumers' goods industries 84%. The survey showed, however, that, on the average, the large plants (with more than 100 employees) have a reserve capacity of only 4% whereas smaller plants (up to 100 employees) could still increase their production by as much as 25%. The survey also showed that 40% of all plants were able to fill their orders only by extending working hours, that 18% were hindered by a shortage of specialized workers and that 11% had to limit their exports in order to supply the home market.

NEW ROLLING MILL IN OPERATION AT DONAWITZ. The new sectional steel mill of the Donawitz Foundry which recently went into operation is capable of rolling over 200 different medium and heavy sections. The opening of the new unit completes the program, begun with the aid of ERP credits, to expand the rolling mills. By last year the production of rolled goods had already exceeded the one million ton mark. The new Donawitz rolling mill has been built for annual production of as much as 240,000 tons. As a result of the steady increase in rolled goods production, output of pig iron and consequently of iron ore - the latter to 8,100 tons per day - is also increased.

AUSTRIA PRODUCES 10% OF WORLD'S GRAPHITE. With her 1954 production of 17,400 tons of unprocessed graphite, Austria covered 10% of the total world demand for this material. Approximately 14,000 tons of saturated and refined graphite were obtained from the above-mentioned output and 12,785 tons were exported.

PAPER PRODUCTION AND EXPORT STILL INCREASING.

Austrian production of paper in February 1955 was 31,175 tons, compared with 27,556 tons in February 1954. During the same month, paper exports rose to 17,611 tons, as against 15,384 tons during the same period last year. Of the 1955 export figure, 7,100 tons were newsprint; 1954 newsprint export amounted to 4,929 tons. Other production figures for February 1955 were as follows (figures for 1954 in parentheses): cellulose, 30,791 tons (27,238); lignin, 10,333 (8,649); cardboard, 6,215 (4,865).

AUSTRIAN ROLLING MILL PRODUCTION 1948-1954. Austrian rolling mill output has quadrupled since 1948. In 1954, sales on the domestic market reached 409,729 tons as compared to 342,160 tons in 1953 and 105,928 tons in 1948. Exports rose from 75,287 tons in 1948 to 93,493 tons in 1952, 205,894 tons in 1953 and 339,019 tons in 1954. The jump in output after 1952 is a result of the expansion of crude steel production capacity by blast furnace plants and of the construction of new plants by the Alpine Montan and the United Austrian Iron and Steel Works (VOEST) in Linz.

Sheet metal exports rose from 409 tons in 1948 to 164,732 tons in 1954. The output of the new VOEST wide strip mill and the cold rolling mill in Linz is responsible for this development. Output of iron rods for reinforcing concrete and of steel rods, both primarily used by the building trades, rose from 15,400 tons in 1948 to 50,681 tons in 1954.

AUSTRIAN NITROGENOUS FERTILIZER PRODUCTION. In 1954 Austria produced 543,900 tons of nitrogenous fertilizer, a 53,300-ton, or 11%, increase over the 1953 total. Within the same period, sales of nitrogenous fertilizer rose by 7% from 551,000 tons in 1953 to 591,000 tons in 1954. Of this latter figure, 445,000 tons was exported and 146,000 tons was sold on the domestic market. Of the tonnage exported, 59.7% was sold to European countries, 22.2% to Africa, 11.8% to Asia and 6.3% to America. The productivity rate of the nitrogenous fertilizer industry in 1954 rose by 8% over that of 1953. The production quota in 1953 was 107 lbs. of pure nitrogen per man hour.

Minister of Agriculture (Continued from page 1)

the Department of Agriculture's Western Utilization Research Branch and the University of California. After visits to Denver, Colorado and Columbus, Ohio, the Minister will conclude his U.S. trip with another visit to Washington, D.C., where he will hold final consultations with the FOA and the Department of Agriculture. He will leave for Austria from New York on May 18, sailing on the Queen Mary.

SOME AUSTRIAN CONSUMER TAXES ABOLISHED. Starting April 1, 1955 no more sugar, sweetening, acetic acid, match, lighting, and playing card tax will have to be paid within the territory of the Austrian Federal Republic. The abolition of the above named taxes will result in substantial price reductions for the articles concerned.

FORMER HITLER JAIL CONVERTED INTO HOTEL. Picturesque Itter Castle in Tyrol, where many prominent foreign statesmen were detained as prisoners by the German Nazi regime during the last war, is now being converted into a comfortable hotel which will preserve the historical character of the building. The countryside near the castle is famous for its excellent downhill ski runs in winter, as well as for fishing and well-stocked hunting preserves in summer. A special landing field for helicopters is being built directly in front of the castle for use by the guests. Among the political prisoners held at the castle during the war were President Lebrun of France, French Premier Daladier, Italian Prime Minister Nitti and U.S. Generals Arnold and Granger.

AUSTRIAN CONTRACTORS AT WORK ABROAD. Austrian construction companies, working upon assignment of the Afghan Government, are currently engaged in building a number of industrial and public buildings in Afghanistan. Austrian building firms and the Vienna Municipal Planning Office are also members of the Calcutta Town Planning Workpool. The Austrian plans for these projects are worked out on the basis of special construction procedures developed in Austria, in particular the reinforced-steel roof construction technique of the Vienna architect, Maculan. The plans in question, which involve the use of untrained native labor, provide for the use of large-scale, prefabricated steel-concrete components as well as prefabricated concrete blocks. Other Austrian companies are currently carrying out projects in Kuwait and Turkey and still other operations, in Egypt, Iraq and Ethiopia, are nearing completion. In the case of Pakistan, plans have been worked out for a 4,600-ft. "Tonser" bridge of reinforced concrete to span the Indus river.

CULTURE AND SCIENCE

"1955 EUROPEAN THEATER EXHIBITION" TO BE HELD IN VIENNA. In connection with the opening of the rebuilt Vienna State Opera, a "European Theater Exhibition" is to be held in Vienna's Kuenstlerhaus from mid-September to mid-December 1955. The exhibit will include valuable items loaned not only by Austrian museums, libraries and collections but also by more than 150 institutions from all over Europe. This exhibition will illustrate the development of European theatrical activity over a period of 2,000 years, from Greek and Roman times down to the modern theater. The first display of its kind since the International Theater Exhibition in 1892, the Vienna event will be under the direction of Vienna University's Institute of Theatrical Arts, the Austrian National Library and the Federal Theater Administration. Professor Clemens Holzmeister will be in charge of the artistic arrangements.

SALZBURG FESTIVALS AND STATE OPERA OPENING TO BE TELEVIZED. As the result of numerous offers from foreign countries, television broadcasts will originate in Austria even before the end of this year, particularly in connection with some of the performances at the Salzburg Festival, the opening of the new State Opera House and possibly some of the gala premieres following the latter event. These telecasts will be presented within the framework of the "Eurovision" network of European television stations and will also be seen in Austria over experimental installations. As part of this provisional set-up, a transmitter with 10-kilowatt antenna power is to be built in Vienna; Graz, Salzburg and probably Linz will have transmitters with an antenna power of 1 kilowatt. After the opera festival, however, this television operation will be limited to occasional test transmissions since it is planned to adhere to the original program under which regular television broadcasting in Austria would not be started until December 1956. By then transmitter facilities and studios are expected to have been expanded to the point where at least 50% of the Austrian people will be

able to receive the country's television programs. The Austrian radio industry has completed the preliminary work for mass production of television sets. At the present time, it is equipped to produce sets with a 17-inch screen for 7,600 schillings (approximately \$300). These sets are up to current European standards.

Some of the orders for technical and construction work in connection with the television transmitters have already been placed with Austrian companies. Some of the installations to be used for the telecasts of the Salzburg Festival and the Opera Festival will be made available by various companies on a loan basis, as was the case with the televising of the festivities on the occasion of the British Coronation, which was carried in Western Europe over a provisional network and with borrowed equipment.

CONDUCTING COURSE AT SALZBURG MOZARTEUM'S INTERNATIONAL SUMMER ACADEMY. According to a recent announcement, this year's program of the International Summer Academy organized by the Salzburg Mozarteum for the period from July 23 to August 20 will include a special course in conducting, under the direction of Bernhard Paumgartner and Eberhard Preussner. The course will offer instruction in theory by Igor Markevich and in choral conducting techniques by Ruggero Maghini of Turin, as well as lectures by Bernard Gavoty (Paris) and H. H. Stuckenschmidt (Berlin). The best student conductors among those taking the course will have an opportunity to conduct public concerts at the Mozarteum while the winner of the final competition will be invited to conduct three concerts during the 1955-56 season given by the I.N.R. of Brussels, Radio Lausanne and the Winterthur College of Music.

Examinations for participation in this special course will be held at the Mozarteum on July 23-24. The course will be taught in English, French, Italian and German.

NEW STATE OPERA REPERTORY TO INCLUDE MODERN WORKS. According to an announcement by the Vienna State Opera management, at least one modern operatic work will henceforth be included each year in the company's repertory. According to present plans, Frank Martin's "Sturm" (Storm) will be given its premiere at Vienna during the 1955-56 season, and Liebermann's "Penelope," Stravinsky's "The Rake's Progress" and Einem's "Der Prozess" (The Trial) will also be revived.

DISPLAY OF URBAN PLANNING DESIGNS BY PROF. WELZENBACHER. Professor Lois Welzenbacher has organized a display in Vienna of a number of interesting and modern solutions to major urban planning problems, e.g. designs for the reconstruction of Vienna's Danube Canal District, which was destroyed during the war, as well as for the arrangement of the area between Vienna's State Opera House and Karlsplatz. Also on display are the Professor's large-scale designs for the expansion of the city of Antwerp. In addition to interesting projects for large industrial installations and public buildings, the exhibition features a group of new designs for country homes under the heading "The House in Rural Surroundings."

INTERNATIONAL PIANISTS' SEMINAR ANNOUNCES SUMMER COURSES AT ST. GILGEN. This summer, a selected group of students from the Emerich School of Music will be

joined by an international group of musicians and students to attend the seminar for pianists at St. Gilgen, Salzburg. Sessions will be held weekly during July and August in the home of Professor Emerich at St. Gilgen on Lake Wolfgang. The students are also scheduled to attend lectures at the Mozarteum and the Salzburg Music Festival.

1955 INTERNATIONAL MUSIC FESTIVAL TO FEATURE WORKS BY MODERN AUSTRIAN COMPOSERS. During the International Music Festival which is to be part of the Vienna Music Festival of 1955, works by several outstanding Austrian composers will be performed. Among these are Paul Angerer's "Agamemnon muss sterben" (Agamemnon Must Die), a Cantata of Psalms by Anton Heiller, "Four Episodes for Orchestra from Turandot" by Gottfried Einem and the Sixth Symphony of Johann Nepomuk David. The program will also include revivals of works for the organ by Angerer, compositions of Erich Markhl and Arnold Schoenberg and Heiller's cantata "Ach wie nichtig."

"NOREIA" - A PLAY ON ANCIENT AUSTRIAN HISTORY.

The well-known journalist and correspondent of the Neue Zuercher Zeitung, Friedrich Wlatnig, recently delighted the theater-going public in Vienna by writing a play dealing with Austria's very early days. This three-act play has been published by the Amalthea Verlag of Zurich, Leipzig and Vienna. Its title, "Noreia," is derived from what was probably the most important town of the "Regnum Noricum," which recent excavations have proved to be in central Carinthia.

Wlatnig's theme deals with the period after the defeat of the Roman Consul, Papirius Carbo, by the Cymric tribes in 113 B.C. The battle of Noreia was fought by the Celts to defend their independence against friend and foe alike, an effort in which they were finally successful. The characters in Wlatnig's play are convincing and give a genuine historic spirit to the drama which, as a result of the existing parallel to present-day conditions, is of special significance.

VIENNA PREMIERE OF FILM ON LAST DAYS OF HITLER'S LIFE.

The first performance of "Der letzte Akt" (The Final Act) was given in Vienna recently. The work of Ludwig Polsterer and Carl Szokol, this film represents the first attempt to bring the drama of the last ten days of Hitler's life to the screen. The dictator's final, macabre days are portrayed with detailed and almost documentary accuracy. For dramatic reasons, the course of events is somewhat condensed and two imaginary persons are added to the cast of historical figures. The scenario was written by the Austrian author Fritz Habeck and by Erich Maria Remarque, and was based on records of U.S. Judge Musmano, who presided at the Nuernberg Trials. The film was directed by G. W. Pabst.

NATIONAL LIBRARY IN VIENNA HAS OVER 1,500,000 BOOKS.

The Austrian National Library in Vienna recently acquired the 1,500,000th volume in its collection of printed works. In addition to its collections of papyri, maps and globes, which are Europe's largest, its manuscripts, the world's sixth largest in volume, and its collection of theatrical texts and photographs, the Library owns over 3 million individual items and is acquiring approximately 600 new objects every week.

AUSTRIAN VIOLINIST ADJUDICATOR AT INTERNATIONAL MUSIC COMPETITION IN GENEVA. Vienna-born Paul Doktor, now living in New York, has been invited to be one of the judges at the International Music Competition in Geneva, Switzerland, next September. The violinist has been appointed as a professor of the International Music Academy at the world-famous Mozarteum in Salzburg.

WORKS BY AUSTRIAN ARTISTS EXHIBITED IN CHICAGO.

An exhibition of works by five Austrian artists is currently being held in Chicago's Baldwin Kingrey Gallery. On display are oil paintings, graphic art work and tapestries by Johann Fruhmann, Fritz Riedl, Johanna Schiedlo, Josef Mikl and Mario Decleva.

AUSTRIAN DOCTOR AT WORLD'S NORTHERNMOST VILLAGE.

This winter, Dr. H. Serainer of Maria Zell, Styria, has been on duty in Ny-Alesund, the world's northernmost village. Ny-Alesund is located in the Spitzbergen island group north of Norway, at a latitude of 79°, where the temperature can fall to 40° below zero. This arctic village of about 100 inhabitants is almost completely shut off from the outside world for six or seven months of the year.

HARTA EXHIBITION IN VIENNA. Felix Albrecht Harta, the painter and designer, is presently holding an exhibition in Vienna. The collection of works on display is a very extensive cross-section of the artist's paintings, watercolors and graphic art work from his earliest period down to his present-day work.

AMERICAN SINGER CAMILLA WILLIAMS TO APPEAR WITH VIENNA STATE OPERA. As a result of her recent highly successful debut at the Vienna State Opera, the American negro soprano Camilla Williams, was re-engaged for a second performance of Puccini's "Madame Butterfly" on April 29. Miss Williams, a star of the New York City Center Opera, was given an enthusiastic reception by Viennese music lovers and was unanimously hailed by the local music critics for her brilliant singing and acting. She was also signed to sing the title roles in Menotti's "The Saint of Bleeker Street," Verdi's "Aida" and Puccini's "Madame Butterfly" during Vienna's fall season.

NEW DATA ON THE TURKISH SIEGES OF VIENNA. A new and comprehensive bibliography and iconographic record of the two sieges of Vienna by the Turks (1529 and 1683) has been collated by historian Walter Sturming and published by Hermann Boehlau's Nachfolger, of Graz and Cologne. The volume contains 534 bibliographic references on the first siege and 2547 on the second and the iconography 115 and 676 items respectively.

ANTHOLOGY OF YOUNG AUSTRIAN AUTHORS TO BE PUBLISHED. The Austrian publishing house of Albrecht Duerer in Vienna is planning to devote the fifth annual volume of its "Voices of the Present," series of anthologies of works by young Austrian authors, to a number of short novels which would otherwise hardly be available to the public. The collection will include "The Best Short Novels of the Year."

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